23-3-78 and third and final report 23-6-78. The Grover Commission, 23-5-77, first report 10-1-78, final report 15-3-79. The Ray Commission, 18-6-81. Sir, this Commission could not continue its work because of stay orders passed by the Madras High Court and subsequently by the Supreme Court and after the passing away of Shri M. G. Ramachandran, I think, this Commission was wound up. The Koshi Commission, 23-4-77, the Judge resigned. The Alva Commission 13-5-77, interim report, 27.2.78, judge resigned on 17-2-79. Well, the matter is *sub judice*. The Deshpande Commission, 30-11-76, 13-4-77. The Mathur Commission, 1.9.85, resigned on 29-10-85. The Shastri Commission 13-11-85, March, 1987. Kudal Commission, 17-2-82, six interim reports, 4-1-85, 22-4-85, 24-7-85, 16-12-85, 11-6-86, 30-10-86 and final report 29-1-84, The Thakkar Commission, 20-11-84, interim report 19-11-85, final report 27-2-86, The Second Press Commission, 29-5-78, 3-4-82. Sir, may I say with humility you will appreciate that we have done a lot of work. In a few days, we have collected information and more information... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: What about the action taken? Will the information be supplied later on?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have to give a detailed report. I will have to collect the full information, prepare it and place it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will place it on the Table of the House.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: If it is not possible to lay it in this Session, then it should be done in the next Session.

श्री सभापति : यह सेशन तो खत्म हो रहा है, तीन दिन तो बढ़ाया गया है।

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: May I know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether it is obligatory on the part of the Central Government to make an Inquiry Commission's report public?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, unless a notification is made under sub section (5) of section 3 of the Act and approved by Parliament under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Act, it is obligatory to place the report under sub section 4 of section 3. But if a notification is made under section 3 sub-section (5) and is approved by Parliament, it is not obligatory to place it on the Table of the House.

Export of prawns from Visakhapatnam

*404. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prawns export from Visakhapatnam is passing through a phase of uncertainty despite its abundance in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action is being taken or is likely to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) For sometime, there was uncertainty in export of prawns through Visakhapatnam on account of the non-availability of reefer sailings to Japan, which is our principal market for prawn and the levy of purchase tax by the Andhra Pradesh State Government at the rate of 6.5 per cent on products procured from local sources for export. MPEDA is making efforts to resolve the problem of arranging Reefer Sailings. The Andhra Pradesh State Government has since abolished purchase tax on shrimp and the seafood processors have resumed their operations from 27th January, 1989.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, the information given in the statement is incomplete. It is said that prawns exported from India, especially from the East Coast, are unhygienic and that is why we are not getting export orders. That is why most of the prawn-processing and export units at Visakhapatnam, Nizampatnam, Kakinada and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh are closed rendering workers helpless and hapless. So, I would like to know whether it is a fact or not that the main factor is hygiene and if it is a fact, I would like to know what action has been taken to improve the hygienic condition. Are there laboratory facilities? Is there any idea of introducing modern curing and packing technology?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, it is not a fact that because of unhygienic conditions, the prawn export from Vizag is going down. But it is a problem of vessels. (*Interruptions*). Japan had a vessel operating in this area which, for certain technical reasons, they have withdrawn. Thereafter, there was uncetainty for the last three months. We discussed the matter with the Shipping Corporation of India. We found that the exporters preferred, since the vessels did not come in time, to send their prawns to Madras Port or Calcutta Port for shipping for export market in Japan. In any case, unhygienic condition of prawns is not the factor for exports going down. We have no such complaint. I would request the hon Member not to say such things without any information because when our prawn market is gaining ground in the international market without any complaint whatsoever, such things will only hamper our market.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: How many prawn-processing and export units are there at Visakhapatnam, Nizampatnam, Kakinada and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh? How many of them are closed and how many workers were rendered unemployed?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI: The details as to how many units have been closed by private parties and private exporters are not with me. I will have to collect the information But with regard to the basic question that the hon. Member has put, to make better arrangements for prawn-farming programme in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Visakhapatnam, we have established a prawn hatchery which will yield seeds to the tune of 40 millions per annum costing more than Rs. 250 lakhs with the aid of Hawai group. Similarly, we will have a hatchery in Orissa also. In so far as individual units are concerned, I will have to collect the information as to who could run and who could not run the business from Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In the reply, the Minister has said that one of the problems that exporters were facing was the problem of reefer vessels. Now, I think, if I am not mistaken, he said just now that Japan had put a vessel on this route to carry the prawns and that the difficulty arose because Japan withdrew that vessel and that arrangements are being made to deploy another vessel. Prawn is a major of export from this country, both from the East Coast and from the West Coast. If the Ministry of Commerce was co-ordinating properly with the Ministry of Surface Transport, then the Indian fleet, by now, should have acquired reefer vessels to cater to the requirements of this particular trade from India. What I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister is whether they are now, in view of this very sad experience, attempting at this co-ordination so that both the Ministries together could see that the Indian fleet acquires sufficient number of reefer vessels so that the export trade does not suffer on account of transportation difficulties.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. He has rightly pointed out that this is one of the major issues which affects the exports. We had a wide range of discussions with the Shipping Corporation of India. The problem is that at a particular hour, particular time, they will export. But the sad experience is that out of 14 containers, 6 are filled; the rest come back empty. So the time coordination of the landing and the exporter's capability and commitment to export, and accordingly to plan—this is now being worked out. I entirely agree with you that this coordination can only help.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it a fact that there is a large scale theft of prawns in the Indian waters of the Bay of Bengal by foreign ships which are operating in collusion with Indian officials? If so, what action is proposed to be taken to prevent such theft which is vitally affecting our exports?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, I have no information in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 405...

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: If there is no information, how long will he take to collect the information?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, the question of foreigners coming into this country will be looked into by the Defence Ministry. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the other Ministry, not his Ministry. Q. No. 405.

New forest policy

*405. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:†
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the new forest policy and how does this policy affect the forest dwellers; and

(b) whether the recommendations of the Eighth and Ninth World Forest Congress find a place in the new forest policy?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) Important features of the recommendations of the Eighth and Ninth World Forestry Congress were taken into consideration while formulating the new forest-policy.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. G. Vijaya Mohan Reddy.

Statement

I. *Salient features of the National Forest Policy*, 1988

1. Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.

2. Conservation of the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests and protecting the vast genetic resources for the benefit of posterity and discouraging clear felling of adequately stocked forests. Diversion of forest land for non-forest use would be permitted only after very careful examination.

3. Increasing the forest/tree cover in the country through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands.

4. Increasing the productivity of forests to meet essential national needs.

5. Encouraging efficient utilisation of forest produce and involving people in protection, conservation and development of forests. For this, the rights and concessions, including grazing, should be commensurate with the carrying capacity of forests.

6. Encouraging wood substitution measures and alternate sources of energy.

II. *Important provisions of the National Forest Policy in respect of Forest Dwellers*

(i) Adequate provision of fodder, fuel and small timber.

(ii) Restricting the area under shifting cultivation.